



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5515

February Session, 2014



AN ACT ALLOWING THE DESIGNATION OF AREAS WITHIN THE TOWNS OF THOMASTON AND WALLINGFORD AS ENTERPRISE ZONES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 32-70 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2014*):

4 (c) (1) On or before September 30, 1993, the Commissioner of
5 Economic and Community Development shall approve the
6 designation of ten areas as enterprise zones, not more than four of
7 which shall be in municipalities with a population greater than eighty
8 thousand and not more than six of which shall be in municipalities
9 with a population of less than eighty thousand.

10 (2) (A) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner shall approve
11 the designation of two areas as enterprise zones. Each such area shall
12 be in a municipality with a population of less than eighty thousand, in
13 which there are one or more base or plant closures. Such municipalities
14 shall be in different counties. If the commissioner approves the
15 designation of an area of a municipality as an enterprise zone because
16 of a plant closure in the municipality and there is a closure of another
17 plant in any other municipality in the state by the same business, the
18 commissioner shall also designate an area in such other municipality

19 as an enterprise zone. If any such designated area includes a portion of
20 a census tract in which any such base or plant is located, the census
21 tracts in such area shall not be required to meet the eligibility criteria
22 set forth under subsection (a) of this section for enterprise zone
23 designation. If any such area is located elsewhere in the municipality,
24 the census tracts in such area shall meet such eligibility criteria. As
25 used in this subparagraph, (i) "base" means any United States or state
26 of Connecticut military base or facility located in whole or in part
27 within the state; (ii) "plant" means any manufacturing or economic
28 base business, as defined in subsection (l) of section 32-222; and (iii)
29 "closure" means any reduction or transfer in military personnel or
30 civilian employment at one or more bases or plants in a municipality,
31 which occurred between July 1, 1989, and July 1, 1993, or is scheduled
32 to occur between July 1, 1993, and July 1, 1996, and exceeds two
33 thousand persons. Such employment figures shall be certified by the
34 Labor Department. (B) On or after October 1, 1993, the commissioner
35 shall approve the designation of three other areas as enterprise zones,
36 one of which shall be in a municipality with a population greater than
37 eighty thousand and two of which shall be in municipalities with a
38 population of less than eighty thousand. The census tracts in such
39 areas shall meet the eligibility criteria set forth under subsection (a) of
40 this section for enterprise zone designation. The commissioner shall
41 approve the designation of enterprise zones under this subparagraph
42 for those municipalities which he or she determines to have
43 experienced the largest increases in poverty from October 1, 1989, to
44 October 1, 1993, inclusive, based on a weighted average of the
45 unemployment rate, caseload under the temporary family assistance
46 program and per capita income of less than ninety per cent of the state
47 average between 1985 and 1989. In making his determination, the
48 commissioner may also consider the vacancy rates for commercial and
49 industrial facilities in a municipality and a municipality's program for
50 the implementation of an effective enterprise zone program. To the
51 extent appropriate, the commissioner shall use the Regional Economic
52 Models, Inc. (REMI) system in making the calculations for such
53 determination. (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of

54 this section, municipalities that were not distressed municipalities
55 under the provisions of subsection (b) of section 32-9p on February 1,
56 1986, shall be eligible to designate areas as enterprise zones under
57 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision.

58 (3) Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (a)
59 of this section, (A) the municipalities described in this subparagraph
60 shall be eligible to designate an area of said municipality as an
61 enterprise zone, provided such area shall consist of one or two
62 contiguous United States census tracts, contiguous portions of such
63 census tracts or a portion of an individual census tract, as determined
64 in accordance with the most recent federal decennial census and, if
65 such area is covered by zoning, a portion of it shall be zoned to allow
66 commercial or industrial activity: (i) A municipality with a population
67 of not less than seven thousand eight hundred and not more than
68 seven thousand nine hundred, as enumerated in the 2010 federal
69 decennial census, and having a total square area of not more than 12.2
70 miles, and (ii) a municipality with a population of not more than fifty
71 thousand, as enumerated in the 2010 federal decennial census, in
72 which a United States Postal Service processing center that at any point
73 in time employed one thousand or more persons is or was located; and
74 (B) on or before January 1, 2015, the commissioner shall approve any
75 such designation.

76 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) The commissioner shall not approve the designation of
77 more than one enterprise zone in any municipality. The commissioner
78 shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 concerning such
79 additional qualifications for an area to become an enterprise zone as he
80 or she deems necessary. The commissioner may remove the
81 designation of any area he or she has approved as an enterprise zone if
82 such area no longer meets the criteria for designation as such an area
83 set forth in this section or in regulations adopted pursuant to this
84 section, provided no such designation shall be removed less than ten
85 years from the original date of approval of such zone. The
86 commissioner may designate any additional area as an enterprise zone

87 if that area is designated as an enterprise zone, empowerment zone or
88 enterprise community pursuant to any federal legislation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	32-70(c)
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CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*